AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1-6, 8 and 12-17, and add new claims 18-20, as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A process for producing a fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug, wherein said process comprises: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

suspending said poorly soluble drug in a liquid containing no deflocculant to obtain a suspension;

introducing said suspension into a high-pressure homogenizer to subject ~~the same~~ said suspension to a high-pressure treatment to obtain a dispersion; and

adding a deflocculant to said dispersion to deagglomerate aggregated particles contained therein.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a synthetic polymer ~~or a natural polysaccharide~~.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim [[2]] 1, wherein said deflocculant is a synthetic polymer [[is]] selected from the group consisting of a natural polysaccharide derivative, a vinyl polymer derivative [[or]] and a copolymer of polyalkylene glycol.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said poorly soluble drug is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic antibacterial agent, an antifungal agent, an antirheumatic agent, an anti-inflammatory agent [[or]] and a gastrointestinal agent.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The process according to ~~a~~ Claim 1, wherein said poorly soluble drug is selected from the group consisting of a synthetic antibacterial agent, an antirheumatic agent [[or]] and an antifungal agent.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim [[4]] 1, wherein said poorly soluble drug is an antifungal agent [[is]] selected from the group consisting of a triazole antifungal agent [[or]] and a polyene antifungal agent.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said poorly soluble drug is a synthetic antibacterial agent.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said poorly soluble drug is selected from the group consisting of 1-cyclopropyl-8-methyl-7-[5-methyl-6-(methylamino)-3-pyridinyl]-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-3-quinolinecarboxylic acid, itraconazole, amphotericin B, griseofulvin [[or]] and iguratimod.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said poorly soluble drug is iguratimod.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said poorly soluble drug is 1-cyclopropyl-8-methyl-7-[5-methyl-6-(methylamino)-3-pyridinyl]-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-3-quinolinecarboxylic acid.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said poorly soluble drug is a drug having a solubility in water at 20°C of lower than 0.1 mg/mL.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug ~~obtainable~~ produced by the process according to Claim 1.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug according to Claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein 90% by volume or more of particles in said fine dispersion is less than 1000 nm in particle diameter.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug according to Claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein 90% by volume or more of particles in said fine dispersion is less than 500 nm in particle diameter.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A medicinal preparation comprising a fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug ~~in a form of fine particles, which is obtainable~~ produced by the process according to Claim 1, wherein said fine dispersion of a poorly soluble drug is in a form of fine particles.

Claim 16 (Withdrawn-Currently Amended): A fine dispersion of iguratimod, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein 90% by volume or more of particles in said fine dispersion is less than 1000 nm in particle diameter.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A fine dispersion of 1-cyclopropyl-8-methyl-7-[5-methyl-6-(methylamino)-3-pyridinyl]-4-oxo-1,4-dihydro-3-quinolinecarboxylic acid, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein 90% by volume or more of particles in said fine dispersion is less than 1000 nm in particle diameter.

Claim 18 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a natural polysaccharide.

Claim 19 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said deflocculant is a natural polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of acacia, xanthan gum and pullulan.

Claim 20 (New): The process according to Claim 1, wherein said process further comprises, after said adding:

subjecting said dispersion to a deagglomeration treatment selected from the group consisting of an ultrasonic treatment, a high-pressure homogenizer treatment and a rotary homogenizer treatment.